

**2006 Report #9**  
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After a tearful farewell to my students and Cucu(s) at STT-HKBP seminary in P. Siantar, I traveled with Santi and Rene to Medan, the capital city of Sumatra, which takes about 4 hours. They stayed two nights and then returned to P. Siantar where they are first and second year students.

The clean rooms I found there with warm water, flush toilet, recognizable food, firm bed and CNN were a real treat. While in the hotel I had many visitors like Panditas Hotma and wife Maya, whose baby I baptized last year and named Katie after Luther's wife. The brother of Cucu Reonal and another student, Dahlia, whom I helped in Indrapura two years ago, also came. All seemed to arrive at mealtime and we had hearty reunions.

I then moved to a new seminary for me: Abdi Saba Theological Seminary here in Medan where I stayed in an unfinished guest house (there is a planned chapel for the second floor, which is not yet constructed). It was clean and comfortable except that it was back to the squat toilet again.

This was a newer and larger theological seminary which, unlike STT-HKBP, includes a faculty and student body of diverse Bataks: Karo, Nias, Simalungun, Ankola, and a few Toba Bataks. It claims to be the only accredited Seminary in Sumatra. There are 389 theological students; 116 Christian Education students; and 23 postgraduates. It is located on 3 hectares of land, expanding rapidly in a well thought-out plan including faculty development for the 14 who are full time. Only two have their Doctorate and nine with Masters. The school is clean and well maintained, with disciplined administration and visionary leadership by its President, Rev. Jaharianson Saragih, STh, Msc, PhD, (CP)

I was invited there because one of the lecturers is presently working on a Th.D. in Hong Kong and has taken my classes.

Monday evening the President and two English speaking faculty took me to the oldest restaurant in Medan, founded in 1934 by Chinese. I ate Wiener schnitzel and drank Bir Bintang.

On Tuesday I lectured on Congregational Conflict Management to over 400 in an overflowing lecture hall for 2 hours. In the afternoon, it was homiletics for two hours to about 150 students occasionally being drowned out by the Muslim wails from the minaret right up against the hall.

Early the next morning they took me to Polina airport after sweet farewells from many. At the airport immigration discovered I had over-stayed my visa by 1 day. An officer took me into the little room and said there would be a "US \$20 fine" which I paid (and he kept) just to get out of there. Then the 1-hour flight to Singapore, 5 hour wait there, 4 hours to Hong Kong, 1 hour wait and the 13 hours to San Francisco. Whew! I write this still in the deep fog of jet lag. I have never found a method of avoiding it. For those interested, here is my wrap-up report for the entire 71 days.

## Report on Mission Work of Jerry Schmalenberger Sep. 3 to Nov. 15, 2006

To:

HKBP Ephorus Dr. Bonar Napitupulu  
HKBP General Secretary Willem Simarmata  
STT-HKBP Principal Dr. Jamilin Sirait  
STT-Abdi Saba Principal Dr. Jaharianson Saragih  
HKBP Deaconess School Director Serepina Sitanggang

CC: ELCA Global Mission Personnel: Rev. Barbara Lund, Rev. Joseph Chu, Rev. Stephen Nelson and Rev. Michael Fonner

CC: Bishop David Mullen, Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Friends in Christ,

Here is a schedule of my activities for the ELCA Global Mission assignment just completed:  
*September 4-9* - at LTS Hong Kong getting the 5 Batak students settled into their academic work.

*September 9-16* - lectured all day for 5 days to 30 Pastors and seminary faculty at the Association for Theological Education, Yangon, Myanmar. I also made visits to 3 other seminaries where former students now teach and administer. Spent some hours with the Lutheran Pastor in his parish.

*September 16-October 8* - moved to STT-HKBP Pemantang Siantar where I lectured in 3 classes on Pastoral Care each week, preached in Chapel, and took part in the 5 hour graduation ceremony.

*September 28-October 1* - traveled to Sidakalang conducting workshops for Panditas on Homiletics and for Elders on Stewardship. Preached on Sunday.

*October 8-27* - taught Homiletics, Conflict Management, Pastoral Care and Stewardship. Conducted leadership training for staff.

*October 15* - preached in Pearaja.

*October 21* - taught Pastoral Care and Homiletics for district at Tampubolon.

*October 22* - preached at Tambunan.

*October 27-29* - in Pearaja, and Sipoholon to conduct workshop for 120 on Conflict Management.

*October 29* - Reformation preacher at Tarutung Cota.

*October 30-Nov. 10* - taught at STT-HKBP Dogmatics and Pastoral Care.

*October 3-5* - conducted spiritual retreat at Tuk Tuk for my Cucu.

*November 12-14* - General Lectures at Abdi Sabda Seminary.

*November 15* - departed for USA.

*Jerry L. Schmalenberger*, ELCA Global Mission Volunteer

November 17, 2006

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